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INCIDENT AT A TEMPERANCE MEETING.

"Yes, Sir, I'll take the pledge; Oh that I had taken it two years ago, then I had been worth a thousand dollars!" Such was the language of a tall hoary headed man, with a countenance that indicated recent dissipation and grief. I enquired his history and found it nearly as follows:—
C— had been an active, industrious man; by his persevering efforts he became possessed of a valuable farm within a short distance of one of the most flourishing towns in Western Canada. Had he continued the same sobriety and industry for which he was distinguished during the first years after his marriage, his dwelling house and farm buildings might have vied in appearance and comfort with any of his neighbours. His arm was strong, his frame athletic, his land good, and his wife industrious and saving. A ruinous habit prevailed in the neighbourhood by which he was ensnared. It was customary to *drink* at weddings and bees, and when friends met together, either at market, or their own fire-sides, the intoxicating cup was in requisition, as essential to sociality and friendship. C— always drank on these occasions, of course at first within the bounds of moderation, until at length he drank to excess. He remained with an increasing family, in the same log house, while his neighbours were putting up neat and commodious frame ones. His course was down hill, but before his habits were confirmed, he put up a good frame barn, and from his industry, which sometimes continued for months together, it was thought he might yet do well. But the demon of intemperance pursued him. The morning bitters and the evening glass he regarded as almost indispensable. His seventh child was born and he was in debt. Two years ago his farm was sold. A thousand dollars remained after his debts were paid. Money was at his command, and his besetting sin triumphed. His intemperance was daily, his generosity in treating others excessive, and more than five hundred dollars were quickly sunk in the drink that infatuates and destroys. For a time reason and reflection seemed to have regained their seat. With the remnant of his property he started for the West, intending to commence on a new farm. A friend accompanied him and his family to Detroit, and his course was correct and steady. Then infatuation seized him. As they journeyed he staid at the taverns and squandered his money for days and weeks together, until his wife, wretched and hopeless, with the younger children returned to Canada. He promised to proceed and prepare a home for them, but instead of prosecuting that course which conscience and duty dictated, he returned a few months afterwards, having spent his all, and reduced his family to a state of suffering and dependance. He hired himself out to work upon the farms of others when, he might have worked upon his own. He is now sober, industrious, religious, and through the divine blessing is rising in the estimation of his friends and to the possession of influence and property. Behold the man who exclaimed at the temperance meeting, "Oh, that I had taken the pledge two years ago!" W. C.

The following article, by the celebrated Dr. Beeman, upon a subject which is exciting much interest in the United States, is taken from the New York *Evangelist*. Respecting the subject matter of it, our readers will of course judge for themselves.—ED. C. T. A.

THE ENQUIRER.

I must beg a little space in your paper, that I may notice a publication from the pen of E. C. Delavan, Esq. under the above title—the first number of which was issued in December last.

This number embraces fifteen letters from Mr. Delavan, addressed "to professing Christians, on the kind of wine to be used at the Lord's Supper," and an appendix containing important testimony from many eminent men of different professions. In the last named part of the work, there is a lecture from Professor Thomas Sewell, M. D. of Washington city, discussing the effects of alcohol on the human stomach, illustrated by plates; and a lecture by the Rev. Dr. Nott, President of the Union College, more especially devoted to the subject which Mr. Delavan has undertaken to discuss. Were I to characterize the work, as a whole, in a single sentence, I would say that it presents a subject of deep interest, and especially so at this stage of the temperance reformation; that it is rich in facts as furnished by men of different habits, and of various powers, attainments and professions in life; that the discussion is plain, open and manly; and that the author, cherishing a kind spirit in connection with a firm adherence to his own principles, has avowed to others the same liberality which he has used himself—he has permitted them to speak, through the medium of his work, their own sentiments in their own language.

For one, I rejoice in this discussion, at the present time. It has come up in the natural course of events; and to meet it fully and fairly is the duty of every minister of Christ, and every member of the church. None but a good spirit needs to be called forth in this enquiry; and with such a spirit combined with the love of truth, free discussion can do no harm. If those who engage in the enquiry, guard against the love of novelty on the one hand, and prepossession on the other, we may hope that truth will ultimately be discovered and established, and uniformity of practice, and purity and peace be the result.

I am well aware, that there are many and strong prejudices against the examination of the *wine question* in any shape, and especially in relation to the Lord's Supper. It has ever been so, since the attention of wise and good men was first directed to the alarming prevalence of intemperance in our country and the world. When a few friends of temperance proposed to unite wine and other fermented liquors with distilled spirits, and seal the destiny of the whole as beverages, by a single act of *ostracism*, the alarm was rung long and loud; and many who had been zealous in the cause, when the products of the still had been the objects of proscription, actually withheld their co-operation, and left temperance and drunkenness to take care of themselves. The charge was that ultraism was about to ruin the enterprise. Others who united in the same charge, and whose doctrine and practice was, "Let us abolish intemperance, but spare the wine bottle," are now among the most thorough in the cause of total abstinence from all that can intoxicate. They are now what they denounced a few years since as ultraists. They have examined the subject, and changed their minds.

There is now a general agreement in the following positions: that alcohol is poison, and that its nature is the same in the brandy bottle and the wine cup; that the use of it in every form as a beverage, is injurious to body and mind; and that the mildest